

REMARKS

Claims 1-6 and 8-10 are pending in the above-referenced patent application and have been rejected by the Examiner. Claim 7 has been previously cancelled. The Examiner has rejected claims 1-6 and 8 and 9 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite. The Examiner has rejected claim 10 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a). Claims 1, 3 and 9 are currently amended. Claim 10 is cancelled. No new matter has been added.

Claims 1-6, 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as allegedly being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter represented as the invention. The Examiner indicates that the words "latter," "it," "this means" and "his" render the claims indefinite because it is difficult for one skilled in the art to figure out the meaning of those terms.

Claims 1, 3 and 9 have been amended as indicated above. In view of the amendments, Applicant respectfully asserts that claims 1, 3, and 9 (and claims 2, 4-6 and 8 which depend from claim 1) are definite within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. The Applicant therefore respectfully requests that the Examiner's section 112, second paragraph rejections be withdrawn.

Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,487,540 to Smith et al. The Examiner has requested the Applicant to reconsider the rejection of claim 10 in order for this case to be considered for issuance.

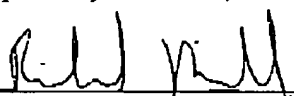
Claim 10 has been cancelled, as indicated above, in accordance with the Examiner's suggestion. Thus rejection of claim 10 is a moot issue, and Applicant respectfully requests the rejection be withdrawn.

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments and remarks are fully responsive to the Office Action and that the claims herein are allowable. An early action to that effect is earnestly solicited.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference with Applicants' attorneys would be advantageous to the disposition of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned.

Applicants believe that no fees are due with the submission of this Amendment. If any charges are incurred with respect to this Amendment they may be charged to Deposit Account No. 503342 maintained by Applicants' attorneys.

Respectfully submitted,

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